

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-4, 11, 16-19, 22-25, 34-40 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art taken singly or in combination does not teach or suggest, a method of increasing image processing performance, among other things, comprising:

copying image data of *a selected subset of an entire image* existing in an I/O RAM *into a copy of the selected subset* in a buffer in a main memory by multiple calls to a memory copy function copying each image line of the selected subset to a buffer line of the buffer; performing CPU intensive operations on *the selected subset* in the main memory and not on the image data in said I/O RAM *to generate a processed image and storing the processed image in the buffer*; and

copying the processed image from the buffer in the main memory to the I/O RAM by multiple calls to the memory copy function copying each buffer line of the buffer to an image line *to generate a copy of the processed image in the I/O RAM*.

The closest prior art, Flurry (US Patent No. 5,684,968) in combination with McKenny (US Patent No. 6,230,241) fails to teach the above emphasized features.

Conclusion

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hau H. Nguyen whose telephone number is: 571-272-7787. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-FRI from 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on (571) 272-7794.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-2 17-9197 (toll-free).

/Hau H Nguyen/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2628